

Reclaim Our River-Nanticoke Series' Eco Paddle and barbecue set for June 25 at Laurel Riverfront Park

LAUREL – Laurel Riverfront Park will be the setting of the second-annual Eco Paddle as part of the Reclaim Our River (ROR) Nanticoke Series, a program offering monthly events, workshops, and recreational activities designed to raise water quality awareness in the Nanticoke Watershed. DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship, the National Parks Conservation Association, Delaware Nature Society, Abbotts Mill Nature Center and Nanticoke Watershed Alliance invite kayakers and canoeists to come to the Riverfront Park in Laurel Delaware where the ROR partnership will be exploring a portion of Broad Creek. The Eco Paddle takes place Saturday, June 25, with a rain date the next day.

Experienced paddlers and first-timers alike are welcome to bring the family and learn about wildlife, water quality, and the river's history while floating on the water. After the paddle, there will be a barbecue and viewing of exhibits from the ROR partnership. The event lasts from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and the \$5 registration fee (plus \$1.12 credit card fee) includes food and beverages, along with kayak or canoe rental, if needed. All are welcome to participate, but space is limited. Register [here](#) to reserve a spot in a canoe or kayak.

Participants are reminded to be prepared to have fun! Site leaders will brief paddlers on basic safety measures to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable time. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own canoes and kayaks; however, equipment can also be provided. The Eco Paddle is a family-friendly event, and kids are welcome. However, all

participants less than 18 years old must have a waiver signed by an adult, and participants less than 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Waivers will be provided onsite.

Attendees should dress appropriately for the weather and wear clothes they won't mind getting wet. Lunch will be provided, but participants should bring a water bottle for their thirst while paddling. All donations collected help cover the costs of food and equipment.

One of the most iconic and scenic rivers in the Chesapeake, the Nanticoke River Water Trail spans a 26-mile segment of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail through Delaware and Maryland. In 1608, Captain John Smith explored the river, and named it the Nanticoke after the Native Americans who lived along its banks. Today, the 725,000-acre watershed supports a diverse range of wildlife and more rare plants than any other landscape in the Chesapeake. The event will educate residents on techniques used to improve water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution entering Delaware's waterways.

The Reclaim our River Nanticoke Series offers participants fun opportunities to connect with their waterways and provides important information on water quality to help protect aquatic resources. Additional sponsors include the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, Nanticoke River Sail and Power Squadron, and Survival Products.

For more information on the Reclaim Our River Program, visit www.delawarewatersheds.org

Media Contacts: Phil Miller, DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship, 302-672-1149 or philip.miller@delaware.gov

Vol. 46, No. 208